

Appl. No. 10/551,444
Amendment dated: January 23, 2009
Reply to OA of: December 23, 2008

REMARKS


Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly define the invention in view of the outstanding Official Action.

The Official Action is an election requirement in which it is urged that there are two patentably distinct species claimed in this application. Applicants elect the Species I, Figures 1-2, and Sub-species 1, Figure 23, without traverse but subject to the right of rejoinder upon allowance of a generic claim. Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 10 are readable on the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the non-elected inventions at a later time.

Applicants submit that the claims now present in the application are fully supported by the specification as originally filed and no new matter is introduced.

In view of the election of the Species I, without traverse, an early and favorable action on the merits is now believed to be in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: 
Richard E. Fichter
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

REF/cjw
A01.wpd

January 23, 2009